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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY : Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Construction Projects in Dimitrovgrad

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1. Several months ago, plans were made for building a chimney 160 meters tall in Dimitrovgrad; this would have been the highest chimney in Europe. However, it was discovered during the construction that such a structure would collapse because of the character of the supporting soil, so the projected height was reduced to 140 meters. When the Czechoslovak and Polish engineers who were supervising the project stressed that even a height of 140 meters could not be reached, an envoy of the Bulgarian Ministry of Public Works, accompanied by two members of the Secret Police, was sent to Dimitrovgrad to investigate the project. All documents referring to the construction of the chimney were sealed in an envelope, placed in a special briefcase, and entrusted to one of the police agents. When the official reached Dimitrovgrad, he was closely watched at all times and was restricted to the construction zone.
2. The Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Heavy Industry, and the Ministry of Public Works have cooperated in enlarging Dimitrovgrad into a gigantic industrial center which employs 50,000 men and women, including some soldiers. The following large enterprises have allegedly been completed:
 - a. The Stalin Chemical Works, which has started production;
 - b. A large power station which is to supply electricity to the entire city; and
 - c. A large explosives factory, which has begun production.
3. The USSR has put the engineer Beliaev in charge of all work projects in Dimitrovgrad. Beliaev is also responsible for city planning.
4. Construction workers in Dimitrovgrad are confined to the city and are not allowed to leave for any reason. A special center with homes, shops, culture circles, etc. has been created for workers, technical personnel, and administrative personnel. These buildings, which resemble military barracks, are placed apart from other buildings and are closely guarded by units of the Bulgarian Army.

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